

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2007***

The meeting was called to order at 6:45pm. Selectmen present were: Michael Woodworth and Wes Moore. James McIlroy joined the meeting in progress. Others present were: Eugene Perreault, Sarah McGregor, and Peter Allen.

Sarah McGregor shared the latest mosquito trapping results with the Selectmen. The traps set on Sanborn Drive over last weekend yielded 5 mosquitoes the first night and 11 mosquitoes the second night. The traps on Bald Hill Road had a yield of 9 the first night and 36 on the second night. At the Newfields Elementary School, the mosquito yield was 3 the first night and zero the second night. All of the trapped mosquitoes tested negative for EEE and West Nile Virus. However, the mosquitoes collected are the number one type capable of carrying EEE.

Sarah's recommendation is that the Town should continue trapping and larviciding, but not spray from the road at this time. The Elementary School will be sprayed via backpack. (Sarah will speak with Dennis Dobe at the School to ask if he is willing to pay for the trapping and spraying at the school and on the playing fields.)

Wes made a motion to approve one additional round of trapping this week at a cost of \$250. and to continue the larviciding (adjusting the areas as needed) and to reconsider spraying at next week's meeting. James seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Wes mentioned that Paul Deschaines of Stratham indicated that they are unable to spray on the Fish & Game property located in Stratham. Sarah stated that Stratham has more salt marsh acreage than Newfields and that 75 percent of Newfields budget for mosquito control goes to salt marsh larviciding. The salt marsh produces millions of mosquitoes which bite during the day and can fly up to 40 miles.

Sarah stated that ponds tend not to produce mosquitoes. Vernal pools, shallow, stagnant areas breed mosquitoes. Mosquitoes cannot be controlled by bats. Bats will go after larger insects for more food at less work. Sarah also mentioned that mosquitoes kill approximately 5 million people per year through spreading sickness and disease. However, eradicating mosquitoes is not feasible.

Sarah mentioned that helicopter spraying of salt marshes is 80 percent effective. However, you need to keep in mind that killing 80 percent of 10 million mosquitoes still leaves 2 million alive. Helicopter spraying is used for the salt marshes in Essex County, Massachusetts and is very expensive.

Gene Perreault advised that the State will pay for two weeks of trapping only. They will pay 25 percent of any larviciding and spraying. Sarah mentioned that the application for reimbursement is complicated. However, the Town did receive reimbursement from the State last year for larviciding and will apply again this year.

As the Town has not received any written test results or recommendations from the State, Gene will contact the proper officials for the threat level assigned to Newfields and ask for recommendations or options to treat the threat.

Peter Allen met with the Selectmen to continue his discussion on holding a Farmers Market or Harvest Festival in the Town Hall parking lot. Again, the people Peter scheduled to speak with the Selectmen were unable to attend the meeting.

Wes stated that he spoke with an attorney at the Local Government Center and also Jack Potter at the New Hampshire Agricultural Department and both stated that town property used for recreational purposes is not subject to litigation. There was an effort to extend this to include agricultural purposes too, but the bill was defeated. Peter stated that this is in direct conflict with what he had been told by Jack Potter.

Peter again asked the Selectmen to sponsor the event and was advised that the Town is not willing to do so at this time. More information is needed to avoid putting the Town at risk.

Wes stated that if Peter is willing to pay for the insurance necessary to rent the premises, his application will be approved. If Peter is not willing to provide a Certificate of Insurance to the Town or pay for the insurance available through the Town's insurance carrier, permission will be denied.

Wes asked that Peter start now to get the process going to be up and running next spring. This would include bringing in knowledgeable people to meet with the Selectmen and all other relevant information. The Selectmen feel that a farmers market would be an asset to the Town, but the proper permits and insurance must be in place as it is for any other organization asking to use town property.

Wes spoke with Bill Davis regarding the work of the Cable Advisory Committee. Bill feels the Committee has finished the task assigned to them and may be dissolved. Bill did have a few concerns with the new contract and they have been forwarded to the Town Counsel for review.

Sue obtained information from the Assessor regarding Discretionary Easements. The Selectmen have asked to meet with the Assessor for clarification of the figures he provided. Sue will be asked to set this meeting up.

The Selectmen would like to meet with the Budget Advisory Committee on September 25th. Nancy will contact the members about this meeting.

Wes made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 4, 2007 meeting as amended. James seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

The Town is still looking for volunteers to fill the open positions on the Planning Board and Trustee of the Trust Funds.

Checks were signed.

The contract with Rye Fuel for oil deliveries to the Town Hall was signed. They were the low bidder at \$2.359 per gallon.

Correspondence from the Lane Law Office was reviewed.

The cell tower notice from the Barrington Zoning Board of Adjustment was reviewed.

The handrail for the new handicap ramp is out being powder coated and the final installation should be completed in the next couple of weeks.

There appear to be some differences in opinion on how the temporary sign ordinance applies. Reuben will be asked to discuss this issue when he attends next week's Selectmen's Meeting.

The working session for the Personnel Policy was added to the Open Items List.

Wes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer
Administrative Assistant